

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of saving power in a color organic electroluminescent display of the type having color emitting elements with different light emitting efficiencies, comprising the steps of:

- a) determining the color of the elements having the highest efficiency;
- b) converting a color digital image to be displayed on the display to a monochrome image; and
- c) displaying the monochrome image using the determined color elements.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the display is in a battery powered device, and further comprising the step of monitoring the power level of the battery, and converting to a power saving mode of operation when the battery power reaches a predetermined level.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: providing a battery saving mode switch on a device that includes the color organic electroluminescent display, and switching to a battery saving mode using the mode switch.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the display has red, green, and blue light emitting elements and the determined color is green.

5. The method claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of converting a color digital image to a monochrome digital image comprises combining 5/16, 9/16, and 2/16 of the red, green and blue color signals, respectively.

6. A color organic electroluminescent display, comprising:

- a) a plurality of differently colored light emitting elements having different light emitting efficiencies;
- b) a digital image processing circuit for converting a color digital image to be displayed on the display to a monochrome image; and
- c) means for displaying the monochrome image using the colored light emitting elements having the highest light emitting efficiency.

7. The display claimed in claim 6, wherein the display is in a battery powered device, and further comprising a power monitor for monitoring the power level of the battery, and a control circuit connected to power monitor for converting the display to a power saving mode of operation when the battery power reaches a predetermined level.

8. The display claimed in claim 6, further comprising a battery saving mode switch connected to the control circuit for switching to a battery saving mode.

9. The display claimed in claim 6, wherein the display has red, green, and blue light emitting elements and the light emitting elements with the highest light emitting efficiency color are green.

10. The display claimed in claim 6, wherein the digital image processing circuit converts a color digital image to a monochrome digital image by combining $5/16$, $9/16$, and $2/16$ of the red, green and blue color signals, respectively.